Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Hundreds of lawn signs supporting Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser vanished or were stolen over Thanksgiving weekend, says an official with her campaign.

Between 275 and 300 Liberal signs across the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, were removed.

It started in Niagara Falls, and similar incidents happened across the whole riding, including NOTL and Fort Erie, said Read Leask, deputy campaign manager for Andrea Kaiser. In NOTL, Leask said signs were removed from lawns at homes and businesses on Niagara Stone Road, York Road, Niagara Parkway, Queenston Road, Orchard Drive, Mississauga Street and Gage Street.

Elsewhere across the riding, signs were removed on McLeod Road, Thoroughold Stone Road, Montrose Road, Swan Drive and St. Paul Road, Leask told The Lake Report.

All the missing signs were legally placed on private property.

Continued on Page 2

Julia Buxton-Cox with the Green party sign out front of her house. BRITTANY CARTER

Election fever grips NOTL
Story on Page 20

Residents and growers at an impasse on bird banger noise

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

York Road residents and owners of Baker Estate Vineyards are at an impasse about the use of propane cannons on neighbouring farms.

The propane-fired bird-scaring cannons, often referred to as bird bangers, fire cannon-like sounds periodically throughout the day to control crop damage caused by birds and pests.

Residents like Jim Fisher and Dr. Yüksel Ören said they aren't happy with the “excessive noise” of the propane cannons used by nearby farms. They have dealt with for three years since the Bakers began using the cannons on the 1850 York Rd. property, and another on Sheppard Crescent.

Under guidelines set by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, bird bangers are a permissible sound and can be fired no earlier than half an hour before sunrise to no later than half an hour past sunset.

Fisher said between the three cannons on nearby farms, one is fired at least every five minutes throughout the day, if not more frequently.

“This is enough to cause noise-induced hearing impairment, when you’re hearing it all bloody day like we are. I don’t want to have to wear hearing aids until I absolutely have to, and this is not helping,” Fisher said.

Jason Baker, owner of Baker Estate Vineyards, said the York Road residents had a chance to address their concerns last year during a scheduled hearing with the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board, but after the prehearing they withdrew, and he said he hasn’t heard any complaints from them since.

Fisher said the group of residents withdrew from the hearing because they didn’t have the resources to move forward.

“There were just a lot of health issues that were impacting the people involved, so we got together and said we can’t continue with this. We have health issues that we’re dealing with, and we know what the outcome is going to be,” Fisher said, adding that he believed the board “held all the cards.” Fisher said the board is managed by farmers and he believes it puts the agricul-
Hundreds of Liberal signs vanish in riding

Continued from Front Page

vote property, Leask said. Security cameras at one business captured im-
ages of a car stopping and stealing a Liberal sign. The graying, low-resolution video has been provided to po-
lice, Leask said.

Niagara Regional Police confirmed they received a report of a theft in regard to an election sign in Niagara Falls. The investigation is continuing and no charges have been laid yet, police spokesperson Stephanie Sabourin said in an email response to The Lake Report.

It’s been disappointing as her campaign team and volunteer sign crew have been working hard and illegally removing signs on private property has been “unfortunate,” Kaiser said in a phone interview.

“I would perceive this as a very orchestrated and planned effort to remove my signs. It was obviously not a random act of vandalism.” Both Kaiser and Leask were careful not to ac-
cuse any particular group of stealing their signs, but both have said the incidents started happening after the vote projection for Niagara Falls riding showed the Lib-
eral and Conservatives were running neck-and-neck.

“Maybe there’s a concern we’re doing well and it’s just an unfortunate way to react to that,” Kaiser said.

“I can’t speculate on who did it,” Leask told The Lake Report.

“It happened at a time when it became clear it was close and I’ll say that this happened over the advanced poll weekend, which is a really critical weekend during campaigns, so this was an effort to distract us from getting our vote out.”

Kaiser added despite what happened, she’s re-
spected support and offers to help replace the signs.

“We’re continuing to knock on doors and keep-
in the momentum up and trying to not be distracted from the end goal,” Kaiser said. “It’s been really amazing for people to step up and help us out.”

Green candidate Sandra O’Connor said her team hasn’t experienced any-
things of the sort, at least nothing they’re aware of.

The only incident happened at Betty’s Restaurant in Chippawa but all parties’ signs were removed, not just the Green party’s, O’Connor said.

“If there’s any widespread targeted sign destruction, I think that goes against our democratic way and it’s totally unacceptable,” O’Connor told The Lake Report.

If people have displeasure about what’s happening, they need to decide that at the ballot box, not by trash-
ingsigns.”

Conservative candi-
date Tony Baldiniello said he also has been informed that some of his campaign signs have been damaged.

“With the election ongo-
ing, we have experienced some signs taken and dam-
aged. This past Saturday I got a text photo from a couple of business people in Fort Erie where the signs were damaged and basi-
cally cut down the middle,” he said.

Regardless of political affiliation, Baldiniello said there’s no excuse for this to be happening.

“It’s unfortunate and unacceptable,” he said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Niagara police at (905) 688-4111 dial option 4, ext. 2206.
Bird bangers bother neighbours

Continued from Front Page

tural community’s interests first, and said the group felt they wouldn’t be properly represented at a hearing by the boards.
Baker said the issue of the bird bangers has been ongoing for several years and he experienced vandalism of the propane cannons on his property in August 2017. Police verified that a report of vandalism was filed on Aug. 28, 2017, in the area of York Road and Concession 2 Road in NOTL. No charges were laid.

Though Baker said he hasn’t heard complaints from the neighbours since the hearing last year, he did receive a letter from one family thanking him for dropping one of the two cannons on the farm near Sheppard Crescent after the 2018 prehearing.

“At the motion hearing you asked us to give you a chance, and you have proven that growers and residents can live together in harmony.”

NDP unveils plan to ‘fight for Niagara’

Kevin MacLean  Managing Editor

Vowing to “fight for you,” federal NDP candidates across Niagara on Monday unveiled a list of promises that they say will help make a difference in the lives of area residents.

“The candidates were speaking outside the Welland Hospital, which the NDP fears could be closed by the provincial government,” Barker said.

Brian Baker, the New Democrat candidate in Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, said, “People in the Niagara region desperately need access to health care services. Douglas Memorial in Fort Erie is under the threat of closure and people in Niagara Falls still don’t have the new hospital they were promised.”

In a media statement, Barker said New Democrats will “fight to ensure all Canadians have the health care services they need including prescription drug and dental coverage.”

The candidates said they will “fight for things that matter to people in Niagara” such as pharmacare and dental care, affordable homes, student debt, fighting climate change, and capping cellphone and internet bills.

Barker said his party’s plan “recognizes how unique Niagara is in Canada and recognizes the role of Niagara-on-the-Lake within Niagara.

“Our plan provides direct funding to help municipalities deal with the climate crisis and repair the flooding that has affected us. It provides supports for farmers — whether they grow grapes or other crops — so that their products can make it to shelves with priority and their families can get the supports they need to help keep their farms going.”

“As most people have seen, the NDP has been surge in the polls, I plan to continue to stand up to major corporations and developers to protect green spaces, he said. “As the MP for Niagara-on-the-Lake, I recognize the importance of our natural and cultural heritage and would work with the community to make sure we’re open for business but that we can still protect the very character that makes the town so special.”

With only days till the election, Barker also expressed confidence about his chances. “As most people have seen, the NDP has been surge in Ontario and, as polls are showing, especially in Hamilton-Niagara. I am not against the prop up for and implement things like universal dental care and pharmacare while lowering student loan repayment costs, and your bills at home. Niagara has an aging population and Barker said his party wants to ensure that cost of living doesn’t overstrip incomes seniors are living on. It protects pensions, increases access to healthcare services instead of cutting them and finally makes affordable housing a reality in Niagara. As well, the NDP will continue to stand up to major corporations and developers to protect green spaces, he said. “As the MP for Niagara-on-the-Lake, I recognize the importance of our natural and cultural heritage and would work with the community to make sure we’re open for business but that we can still protect the very character that makes the town so special.”

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Editorial

Make an informed choice, but do vote

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Every four years or so we get to exercise an inalienable democratic right by choosing our elected representatives in Ottawa. For the past five weeks, and for many months before that as the inevitable “permanent campaign” of the federal partiesroids for our attention, we have heard promises, accusations, promises, criticisms of one party or leader by another, more promises and – you get the picture. Now it is up to you. In the public sphere – and that includes the social media world in which information, disinformation and fake news are all widely traded, usually with no critical lens applied – there is a plethora of information all trying to grab your attention and inspire you to support one side or another. It’s not an overreach to suggest that as each election comes along it gets harder and harder for ordinary folks who are uninfluenced with one party or another to determine who is the best choice for our riding and our country.

The amount of information circulating and seeking our attention is astonishing – and the avalanche of one-sided, erroneous, fake, intentionally deceptive disinformation even more so. It really seems to be getting more difficult with each passing electoral mandate for ordinary folks to parse the Truth from among all the “truths” bandied about by all sides in the deluge of electoral discussion. What is an individual to do? There is no easy answer. Thankfully, there have been a few opportunities to meet candidates in person at all-candidate meetings in the riding of Niagara Falls, which includes NOTL and Fort Erie. And all our local riding’s hopefuls have been busy knocking on doors trying to spread their message. But that is just a start for voters. If you are still undecided about whom to support on Monday, please take the time to read each local candidate’s literature, view the platforms of the various federal parties, and think critically about what each is saying or promising. It’s far from a perfect system, but it remains the best one we’ve got. If you have not already cast an advance ballot, then between now and Monday, educate yourself and dispassionately analyze the candidate platforms so you arrive at the ballot box as an informed voter. Vote for whomever you wish, but please do vote. You owe it to yourself and to your country.

terry Davis
NOTL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council should reject chamber request

Dear editor:

When Niagara-on-the-Lake’s infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, wastewater treatment system, parking spaces – are already being used beyond their capacity, and residents will almost certainly be hit with a municipal tax increase in 2020, it makes no sense for council to give the NOTL Chamber of Commerce an advance of $15,000 to attract more tourists to town.

The chamber says it needs the funds to rent and setup a booth at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto next month, plus pay for parking and accommodation costs during the 10-day run of the annual exhibition. Its goal is to attract more tourists to NOTL in the winter, and to increase the number of participants in winter events such as the Candlelight Stroll and ice wine festival. This, when the Candlelight Stroll, in particular, is already so crowded with tourists that several local residents I know have stopped going to the event.

It’s concerning that the chamber’s request came to council at the last minute. The Royal has been an annual event since 1922 and from 1997, when the ErinCare Centre was completed, a large exhibition area has been available to vendors and organizations wishing to rent and setup booths. So why did the chamber want until two months before this year’s fair to request funding? Where is the business plan that demonstrates a positive return on investment for the town funds that the chamber wants to spend?

The decision of the committee of the whole to recommend approval of the chamber’s funding request also raises questions, most notably: Did the committee evaluate the request against the objectives established for NOTL in the town’s strategic plan and against other funding priorities? Did it consider the impact on 2020 municipal taxes? And did it stop to consider the risks/benefits and costs of supporting an effort to bring more tourists into the community? I believe that funding requests such as the chamber’s should only be considered by NOTL in years when the town can provide them without reducing the level of services it provides to residents or raising taxes, and only in exceptional circumstances. It’s time for council to set funding priorities and stick to them.

Terry Davis
NOTL

We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Missisauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report
With Thanksgiving in the rear-view mirror, here are some random thoughts about Canada and Canadians, jotted down during a 2,368-kilometre journey this summer from Niagara to Ottawa to New York City and back to home. I connected with dozens of people, asking directions, asking about their towns. As the short order cook at the Raceway Diner in Yorkon, N.Y., said when I thanked him profusely for taking so much time with me, “Hey, I think almost everybody wants to help everyone be happy and safe.”

In a world of bad news and political weirdness, a good road trip proves he is right. Several people asked, “Don’t you have GPS in your car?” I replied, “No, because then I wouldn’t get to meet people like you.”

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019 because: We have thousands of volunteers, who donate their time, talents and passion to help. All over Canada, every day, year after year, to help fellow Canadians to make their lives better.

We have a hundred of summer camps, where kids can be at one with lakes and forests. And, the price is right, sometimes free.

As Canadians, we can pump, go inside to pay, cover bank notes. So much easier, eh? And, we don’t have to drink Budweiser or Oast House or gluten-free perilla. As Canadians, we have co-operators, even Rob Nicholson, it’s off-key. So unique, such fun to sing and back to home.

A chat here, a chat there. Gotta love the Avondale staff. A chat here, a chat there. Another chance to talk about the weather. Bien sagesse.

Call now or book online.

At HearingLife, our goal is simple: to help more people hear better. Let’s start by connecting a common misconception about hearing aids.

Fiction: Hearing aids will make me seem old.
Fact: You know what makes you seem old? Saying “What? Huh?”

Our newest devices are straight from the future: small, modern and smart – connecting you to the world to ooh and ahh at the Bruce Trail.

Portland Private Income Fund
Investing Primarily in Private Debt Securities

**The awards are based solely on quantitative performance data of 207 Canadian hedge funds to June 30th, 2018 with Fundata Canada managing the collection and tabulation of the data to determine the winners. There is no nomination process or subjective assessment in identifying the winners. The fact that a fund is included in the calculations does not mean it has received the award. The rankings are based on the Salk and Sroka index, the Sroka Index, and the Sharpe Ratio. The Salk and Sroka index is calculated by adding together the rates of return of the Salk and Sroka index for the time period under consideration. The Sroka Index is calculated by dividing the return of a fund by the standard deviation of the fund. The Sharpe Ratio is a measure for calculating risk-adjusted returns. The Sharpe Ratio is calculated by dividing the excess return of a fund by the standard deviation of the fund. The Sharpe Ratio is a measure for calculating risk-adjusted returns.

Best 5 Year Return
Since Inception

9.0%
10.0%
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12.0%
13.0%
14.0%
15.0%
16.0%

Fact:
Vanessa Vani, Doctor of Audiology at our Virgil clinic.

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Our newest devices are straight from the future: small, modern and smart – connecting you to the world to ooh and ahh at the Bruce Trail.
Thanks for letter about act of kindness

Dear editor:
Thank you for the wonderful letter to the editor, (“More good things happen in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” Oct. 10), from Jane Calver regarding the helpful young man who stopped his truck to check the collar of an old dog wandering by the side of York Road, even though this meant slowing down the traffic briefly.

It’s so nice to know this act of kindness did not go unnoticed and appreciated.

Thanks.

Bonnie Easterbrook
Queenston

An election poem

Majority governments be
Based upon minority.
Minority governments be
Based on a majority.

Voters practice to believe.
Leaders practice to deceive.
This all in the bag of tricks
We call Canadian politics.

Still, we hope the chosen stands
Bravely, for the common man.

Man meaning woman, but woman not man.

David Lailey
NOTL

Why only one station at advance polling?

Dear editor:
It’s about noon on Friday, Oct. 11, and I am just back from advance voting at the NOTL Community Centre.

It was my second attempt. My first try was around 10 a.m.

The queue then was down the hall to get into the room. I left and returned late morning.

It’s a good thing I live close enough to the community centre that I can walk over.

But — same situation — the queue was still down the hall and 18 persons long inside the room.

The woman ahead of me gave up and left after about 20 minutes.

The problem! ONE voting booth! It appears the room could easily accommodate three.

Hopefully the next MP for Niagara Falls riding will read this and remedy with Elections Canada. Voting should be fun, not painful.

Larry Mantle
NOTL

I am Canadian

Four years ago, prior to the 2015 federal election, Scott Finlay of the Friends of Fort George shared these thoughts on Facebook. The post popped onto people’s newsfeeds again this week and we are happy to share it with readers of The Lake Report. It’s a timely reminder of things for which we can be thankful and the importance of participating as a voter.

I am a Canadian.

I live in a country that is decent and accepting.

I live in a country that was born of discussion, debate and compromise.

I live in a country that welcomes and embraces diversity.

I live in a country that is open and evolving based upon constant dialogue and understanding.

I welcome immigrants to this nation because I am the grandson of immigrants.

I recognize that others were here before me and I treasure their presence and participation in the governance of this nation.

I believe in free speech, the freedom of religious belief and a free press.

I do not wear my patriotism on my sleeve because I do not need to. I know that I live in the best country in the world.

I refuse to live my life based upon fear or respond to those who would try to make me feel afraid.

My national legacy is quiet and steady courage in the face of trouble. I respond with bravery where it is needed and I respond with compassion where it is required.

I believe in open dialogue with those whose opinions differ from my own.

Being a Canadian means living in a vibrant, growing environment where all of my fellow citizens enjoy the same rights.

Being a Canadian means caring for those in our society who most need that care and fiercely protecting the rights of my fellow citizens — all of them.

This week I will exercise my right to be part of the process which results in how Canada goes forward.

I will respect that duty and carry it out with the understanding of what Canada best needs.

I love this country and I will vote accordingly.

I am a Canadian.

Scott Finlay
NOTL

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to
editor@niagarannow.com

Torture by sonic devices

We live on York Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, between St. David’s and Queenston. Some of us have been neighbours for more than 40 years.

Until propane-fired cannon use began, we enjoyed our life on the escarpment, living in harmony with nature and our neighbours.

In recent years, the lives of people living on the Escarpment Bench neighbourhoods have been dramatically altered. As the vineyards replaced orchards and growers adopted propane-fired cannons to deter birds, the area residents became subject to frequent explosions from the middle of August to late November.

These cannon explosions repeat every three to five minutes, there are three explosions per cannon separated by about five seconds. These cannons can be used by growers beginning half an hour before sunrise and continuing all day to half an hour after sunset.

The continual daily noise becomes unbearable, distressing, torturing the entire neighbourhood. The effect is even more agonizing as the explosive sound reverberates on the unique topography of the Niagara Escarpment.

The impact of the sound generated by the cannons can be compared to the effects of water torture where one water drop on the top of the head of a person repeated continually, seemingly innocuous, until the repetition drives the victim mad. The grower in question leaves to go to his off-site job for the day, but his neighbours have little choice but to endure 160 to 260 explosions daily.

We, as residents of York Road, are frustrated and aggrieved with this intrusive and torturous farm practice that can be replaced by netting or other non-audible methods. Indeed, one vineyard on York Road does not use propane-fired cannons and its vineyard is entirely netted. Therefore, alternatives exist to sonic devices.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs allows the use of propane-fired cannons and refers to their use as a “normal farm practice,” in spite of the negative effects of explosions for the nearby residents.

The growers are protected by the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, which protects farming operations from nuisance complaints and restrictive municipal bylaws.

It is obvious, the root cause of this travesty is the ministry giving a carte blanche for the use of propane-fired cannons and other sonic devices to growers despite many complaints. Growers have an obligation to respect their neighbours’ right to live in an explosion-free environment as a basic human right.

We believe the town has a responsibility to protect their non-farming community living in both urban and rural areas by advocating on our behalf to the ministry to stop this environmental travesty and gross abuse of our property rights.

Currently, the town chooses the easy way out and denies any responsibility, by forcing us to take each grower to a tribunal to dispute what “normal” is. We have documents showing the bylaws of several municipalities in B.C. where audible bird scare devices are regulated.

We believe our complaints are being ignored and we are aggrieved by the Town of NOTL and the Ontario government by being subject to this torture form of bird deterrent method.

We demand that the Town of NOTL protect their non-farming community and reject the use of sonic devices, (propane-fired cannons) as a “normal” farm practice and remove their use from Schedule A of permitted noise in the municipal noise control bylaw.

Dr. Yüksel Oren, Ülkü Oren, Halina Rogpedowska, James Fisher, Irene Fisher, Valeria Sebella, Christine Bukshman
NOTL
Now is not the time to vote Liberal

Dear editor:

Thank you for featuring discussions in The Lake Report on the upcoming federal election, which will determine what type of country we will have for generations to come.

All eligible voters not only have a duty to vote, but also to vote wisely. In order to do so, one must try to obtain adequate information and review other people’s perspectives without hostility, hopefully resulting in an informed decision. One can resort to YouTube videos or the internet for a variety of presentations and also read comments from fellow Canadians.

I trust that a vast majority of Canadians believe in values like common-sense spending, competence, fairness and ethical/moral integrity. Liberal or Conservative, these qualities are a must for any Canadian prime minister.

A very serious matter is the SNC Lavalin scandal, which questions Justin Trudeau’s moral/ethical integrity and good judgment, along with his finding of the then-attorney general, who stuck to her principles and integrity.

The Liberals also budgeted a $600 million bail-out to Canadian media, which is extremely prejudicial to fairness in media coverage of the competing candidates and further investigation of SNC Lavalin … another example of a grave issue.

Most of the Liberal supporters in NOTL are undoubtedly excellent in character and mainly supportive of the less fortunate. However, this may not be the time to be loyal and stick to one’s party of preference and ideology.

Various sources allege that Trudeau has not acted in the best interest of our country, and he has been accused or judged to be unethical, incompetent to perform the highest position in the land, and haphazardly gives money away for causes of his own choosing instead of spending our money wisely to improve the lives of less-fortunate Canadians or the really destitute. In fairness, Liberal supporters can also enlighten themselves by considering Liberal achievements that improved the lives of ordinary Canadians and the country as a whole and convinced others to re-elect him. These are hard and challenging times and voting for the current prime minister will not lead to economic stability, as it may be perceived today.

The visible difference in the number of Liberal signs is due to the choice I made to follow local bylaws restricting the erection of election signs on public property or on private property without permission. My team of volunteers have been instructed to follow these bylaws. I am deeply saddened that this choice has led some residents to feel upset or offended by their appearance in the community – this is definitely not the case. I will continue to reach out to local bylaw officers to request illegal signs erected by other candidates’ campaigns be removed as soon as possible to provide for a fair and equitable environment for all candidates.

There have also been reports that people are being asked to install their signs on my husband’s farm property. I would also like to express my deep disappointment in having hundreds of my supporters wake up on the afternoon of the election to see that their election signs were removed from their lawns.

In one instance a video was recorded showing an individual drive up and quickly remove a large Liberal sign and place it in their car. It was located in between two other election signs, each of different candidates, which both remained untouched. These actions demonstrate to me that this was not a random act of vandalism, but rather a targeted operation that was planned in advance. We are working to hand over this footage to local authorities.

One of the reasons I decided to return to politics was to set a positive example for the community and for future generations. It is unfortunate that I have become a target of those in the community who wish to resort to destructive illegal tactics. I did hope we could have a democratic process allowing everyone to be respected in voicing their opinions.

Andrea Kaiser
Liberal candidate
Niagara Falls riding

Scheer because of his mild manner and alleged lack of good looks and charisma, may consider voting for him anyway (nobody is perfect) as the Conservatives have the best chance of defeating Trudeau. A Conservative majority would be most effective in sorting out our financial and economic problems; a diluted agenda will result from a coalition. A vote for any other party will be a vote for the same current Liberal government, which does not seem to be as responsible and ethically/legally inclined as previous ones.

Liberal die-hards will be able to vote Liberal in some other time when a competent and trustwor-thy candidate for prime minister comes forward. However, this will not happen if the current Liberal party remains in power, as it may be perceived that present-day Canadian voters no longer care for competence, fiscal responsibility, moral/ethical integrity, fairness and rule of law, all of which form a solid foundation for this wonderful country.

Yours truly,

Cecilia Bennett
NOTL

Setting the record straight about signs

Dear editor:

I am reaching out today to set the record straight in regards to an unfortunate perception that I have shown a lack of interest in some communities within the riding of Niagara Falls due to the number of visible Liberal signs as compared with other candidates.

This perception could not be further from the truth. I am a dedicated individual knock-ing on doors across the riding three times a day, one who plans to work hard for Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie if elected as your member of Parliament.

The visible difference in the number of Liberal signs is due to the choice I made to follow local bylaws restricting the erection of election signs on public property or on private property without permission. My team of volunteers have been instructed to follow these bylaws. I am deeply saddened that this choice has led some residents to feel upset or offended by their appearance in the community – this is definitely not the case. I will continue to reach out to local bylaw officers to request illegal signs erected by other candidates’ campaigns be removed as soon as possible to provide for a fair and equitable environment for all candidates.

I have also reached out to a fellow candidate to please ask that their team not re-install their signs on my husband’s farm property. I would also like to express my deep disappointment in having hundreds of my supporters wake up on the Thanksgiving weekend to see that their election signs were removed from their lawns.

In one instance a video was recorded showing an individual drive up and quickly remove a large Liberal sign and place it in their car. It was located in between two other election signs, each of different candidates, which both remained untouched. These actions demonstrate to me that this was not a random act of vandalism, but rather a targeted operation that was planned in advance. We are working to hand over this footage to local authorities.

One of the reasons I decided to return to politics was to set a positive example for the community and for future generations. It is unfortunate that I have become a target of those in the community who wish to resort to destructive illegal tactics. I did hope we could have a democratic process allowing everyone to be respected in voicing their opinions.

Andrea Kaiser
Liberal candidate
Niagara Falls riding

Attacks on Trudeau are more Conservative misinformation

Dear editor:

Here we go again with letter writer George Warkentin’s attacks of misinformation, “(It’s not possible to defend actions of PM Trudeau, Oct. 10).”

Just read PM Trudeau’s biography online and his autobiography “On Common Ground” etc. His father PM Pierre Trudeau brought French and English Canada together, continued the United Nations work of PM Lester Pearson and taught his own children “how to be a good person.”

His mother Margaret graduated in political science and her father was an MP from British Columbia. Justin Trudeau’s resume includes a BA (literature) McGill (Montreal) and a bachelor of education UBC (Vancouver). He taught mathematics and French etc. at a private Vancouver school.

Back in Montreal, he studied engineering and environmental geography briefly before being persuaded to enter politics. He started in a CBC TV mini-series “The Great War,” portraying his distant cousin Maj. Talbot Papineau, who was killed in 1917. He advocated for winter sports safety after his brother died in an avalanche, chaired the Katimavik volunteer youth program and started the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict studies at the University of Toronto.

By contrast, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer worked a short time as an insurance agent before entering political life.

Mr. Warkentin also wonders about the long-term social effects of legalizing marijuana. Maybe marijuana’s toxic effects will be less than alcohol, but it is hard to prevent and treat any addiction if cuts are made or services privatized by regressive governments.

Our unemployment rate is the lowest in decades, mostly full-time jobs. The Conservatives wish to cut infrastructure jobs and clean energy subsidies, foreign aid and United Nations participation, and funding for the nonpartisan CBC while not taxing foreign media as Canadian firms are taxed.

Across our riding over the weekend, hundreds of lawn signs for Independent candidate Andrea Kaiser were stolen. Dirty tricks by someone; we don’t know whom. I vote for positive politics, not personal attacks like the Conservatives have used.

The Liberals have accomplished most of their promises from 2015 — but must do more. I trust PM Trudeau and his team, and hope they will be allowed to continue to fight for democracy, wages, justice, interprovincial and world co-operation, for peace and prosperity, including cleaner energy, air, water, earth.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
NOTL

OPINION

October 17, 2019

Page 7

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Horse protesters and Sentinel supporters negotiate new rules for demonstrations

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new agreement between horse carriage supporters and protesters has been established.

Niagara Regional Police as well as support group Locals for Carriages, protesters At War For Animals Niagara and the owners of Sentinel Carriages negotiated the new deal, which sets out rules and protocols for protests and counter-protests.

This is the second time a good-faith agreement was put in place between protesters and carriage supporters. The first agreement was created in August 2018.

Sentinel Carriages’ co-owner Laura Sentinel said her company won’t be doing anything different because it has never done anything wrong in the first place.

“We’re doing what we’ve always done,” she said in a phone interview, adding it is “unfortunate” protesters didn’t invest time and money into “actually helping animals” because “if they did, I’d be right with them,” she said.

Sentinel, along with Jennifer Jones-Buski, who represented a support group Locals for Carriages, verbally agreed to the new protocol but didn’t sign it.

Adian Stirr, a member of the protest group, said the only time protesters didn’t follow the previous agreement was on Sunday, Sept. 8, when after their demonstration on Queen Street, they moved to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street where a pig roast was taking place.

Demonstrators did it to show other parties what their protests would look like without an agreement in place, Stirr said.

“That is what is considered a normal protest in any other city,” he told The Lake Report.

Stirr said he hopes the new agreement will let animal rights activists continue doing what they’ve been doing for the past two years, such as standing in their usual spot on the corner and talking to people in a “nice peaceful manner.”

Jones-Buski said coming into the meeting about the new protocol, she was told not to discuss the Legion protest, which she said she was told was “an anomaly” and would never happen again if an agreement was negotiated.

“We didn’t really have an option other than (come to) an agreement just for the safety of drivers, the horses and the town,” Jones-Buski told The Lake Report.

Everyone agreed not to discuss the Legion protest, as well as other local protests, such as against the Legion’s plan to put up a commercial building on its property next to the Legion, adding any ongoing or potential legal concerns should be reported to the police.

The new protocol states all parties agree to stay 10 feet or three metres away from each other, and 14 feet or four metres away from the horses.

Protesters will have no more than three people on the end of each of the flower beds on the corners of King and Queen streets.

All parties agreed to avoid speaking to each other and initiating contact with other businesses about their personal beliefs. Protesters also agreed not to engage with carriage drivers and customers.

Everyone agreed not to use megaphones and tripods within the protest area, and both the protesters and the supporters will keep their personal belongings, such as backpacks and signs, off the sidewalks.

According to the protocol, as long as conditions are met, the protesters will not follow the carriages by foot or vehicle.

All activities will be held in public places and all concerns should be reported to protest liaison officers from Niagara Regional Police.

Niagara Falls Writer’s Festival gets help from some NOTLers

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Andrew Porteus has been publishing found poems online for almost 20 years and now he is helping to organize the Niagara Falls Writer’s Festival which takes place on Oct. 19 at three Niagara Falls library branches.

Porteus was initially involved with organizing a poetry contest during the festival, but due to limited submissions the contest was scrapped.

He will, however, publish submissions on his website, Niagaraapoetry.ca, where he showcases more than 250 found poems centered around Niagara’s history.

This will be the first year for the festival running in this format, which was planned as a way to connect the local writing community in Niagara and to offer workshops and discussions on various aspects of literary interest.

The festival runs from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Victoria Avenue library branch, the St. Catharines branch and at the McIlrath Community Centre.

Topics include a memoir workshop, poetry readings, tips on getting published, writing collaboratively, and building a writer’s platform.

The Niagara Falls Public Library held an event with a similar focus last year on Independent Authors Day.

This year’s festival started out as a continuation of that initial event but grew into its own, said Erik Upper, public relations co-ordinator for the festival.

With the help of a Niagara Falls Arts and Culture grant of $2,500, the festival was able to arrange for more workshop presenters, he said.

Porteus connected with friend and two-time bestselling memoir author Kathy Dobson and arranged for her to lead the memoir writing workshop at the Victoria Avenue branch.

“They can gain an understanding of how to write a memoir. Hers is very raw and real, and she’s not afraid to be very open and honest,” he said.

Dobson has worked as a journalist for the CBC and contributed to the Globe and Mail, National Post, Ottawa Citizen and many more media outlets.

Currently pursuing a PhD at Carleton University in the School of Journalism and Communications, she has made a name for herself through her writing, her research into poverty issues, and by speaking about and hosting similar workshops.

Sharon Frayne of the NOTL Writers’ Circle will also be bringing her literary passion to the festival by reading her short story, Moonlight with Tom Thomson, at the Stamford branch.

The story was recently published in two parts in The Lake Report, accompanied by an image of an oil on canvas piece Frayne painted, which was the inspiration for the story. She said she will have the painting on display during her reading as well.

She also said she has a few other short stories and poems prepared for reading. She can discuss the work.

Many writers participating and presenting during the event will have their published books available for purchase at the festival’s Book Fair, which will be held in the foyer of the Victoria Avenue branch.

After the festival, attendees will be invited to connect at Third Space Café on Queen Street in Niagara Falls for an open mic, where they can discuss the work.

Porteus says they will meet at the café from about 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A full list of workshops and locations can be found at nfwritersfestival.com.
Library will trade fines for Humane Society donations during Library Week

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library will trade fines for donations to the Humane Society during Ontario Public Library Week, which runs from Oct. 20 to 26.

Through the Fines for Furry Friends program, the library will forgive $5 worth of fines in exchange for an item donation for the Humane Society. A list of accepted donations can be found online at notlpubliclibrary.org.

Chief librarian Cathy Simpson said the Humane Society seemed like an appropriate charity to support. “This is a real dog town. People love their dogs here; they love their pets. We do allow dogs here in the library. This is of course a worthy cause and charity but it’s also something that the people really connect with,” Simpson said.

Ontario Public Library Week is a project of the Ontario Library Association to acknowledge and celebrate the valuable role libraries play in the community. As well as forgiving fines, the library will host free author visits, a customer appreciation day, and will have children’s programming scheduled throughout the week.

“It’s a chance for us to make awareness basically about what we have to offer,” Simpson said.

For the kids, the library will host Library Mouse Storytime on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. and Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m. Customer appreciation day is Monday, Oct. 21, and the library will offer free coffee and goodies all morning.

On Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m., Canadian author and explorer Adam Shoalts will launch his latest book, Beyond the Trees. He will also show a multimedia presentation alongside his storytelling, which the event page labels “as entertaining as it is awe-inspiring.”

On Oct. 25 at 5 p.m., local children’s book author Stephen Bushnik will read his book Troll and Fairy, along with a few other titles which are now available for loan at the NOTL library.

Bushnik writes books about acceptance, standing up to bullies, and loving yourself as you are.

And in the spirit of Halloween the library is having a Monster Party on Oct. 27 at 1 p.m.

Drop-in literacy events will be held all week in the children’s section of the library.

Edison Singers bring inaugural three-concert season to NOTL

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is to be one of three musical hubs for The Edison Singers, Canada’s newest professional choral ensemble, according to founding artistic director and conductor Noel Edison.

“We’re focusing on three communities that have demonstrated a serious and generous appreciation for fine choral music — Toronto, Wellington County and Niagara-on-the-Lake,” says Edison, a 40-year veteran of choral conducting at an international level.

The new choir’s first local performance is Monday, Oct. 28, at the Court House Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

The Niagara concert series is sponsored by the family of well-known arts supporter Peter Partridge, to honour his tremendous generosity and his respect and admiration for Edison’s lifelong choral achievements. Partridge died a year ago, in October 2018.

Edison is excited about starting fresh after gaining worldwide acclaim conducting and directing both the Elora Singers and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir for more than 20 years. “It’s so refreshing to start from scratch again, something I’ve not done in 40 years,” he says. “Our inaugural year includes some of my favourite works. I know our audiences will enjoy the music.”

The Oct. 28 concert — Choral Mystics — will showcase music “the choir loves to sing, and audiences love to hear,” from medieval chianto an Orlando Gibbons work to modern works by Pärt, Ešenvalds and others. The program will be topped off with familiar folksongs in new arrangements.

Jim Bourne, music director at St. Mark’s Anglican Church and member of the fledgling Edison Singers, is excited by what’s ahead for the group. “We’re singing wonderful music for one of Canada’s most accomplished choral conductors and we’re loving it,” says Bourne.

The 2019-2020 season will include two additional concerts in Niagara. In the Bleak Midwinter, a celebration of holiday music, will be performed Monday, Dec. 9, also at the Court House Theatre.

On Sunday, April 5, at a venue to be announced, The Edison Singers will present Ancient and Modern Reflections, including Palestrina’s Missa Papae Marcella and Byrd’s Mass for Four Voices, both 16th-century works, and a modern Requiem by Herbert Howells.

“We’ve had our auditions,” says Edison. “We’ve had our musical bootcamp. We’re ready and we’re excited!”

For ticket information and additional details, go to www.theedisonsingers.com or call 226-384-3100.
Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

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Ontario Public Library Week
Oct. 20 to Oct. 26

Halloween Ghost Tours at Fort George - 7 p.m. - Fort George
NOTL Rotary Club Fall Fashion Show - 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Gate House Hotel

Niagara Regional Native Centre Community
Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.
Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre
Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
Council - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers
Public meeting on cannabis production - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers

Duplicate Bridge (ACBL Sanctioned) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre
Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Sunlife Financial Seminar - 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre MORI Room
NOTL Horticultural Society October Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Heritage Trail Committee - 2 p.m. - Council Chambers

German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre
STEAM Story Time - 11:45 a.m. - NOTL Public Library

Niagara Regional Native Centre Community
Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre, 382 Airport Rd.
Free Community Day - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum
Babies and Books - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library

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NOTL Rotary Club Fall Fashion Show - 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Gate House Hotel

Pumphouse Arts Centre - 1:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum
COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:
Legion Fish Fry every Thursday
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre
Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.
Niagara College demonstrates its commitment to inclusion and acceptance

Felipe Reis, president of Loving Out Loud, said the crosswalk signifies Niagara College’s commitment to offering a safe and inclusive space for everyone in the LGBTQ2+ community.

“The goal (of the club) is to receive anyone from the community, but not just from the community, straight people as well are welcome. It (the crosswalk) really shows how Niagara College is open to receive any part of the community,” Reis said.

He said he feels the college will actually do what it says it will in terms of providing a safe and accepting environment for everyone. The crosswalk at the NOTL campus is the second one for the college. It was delayed until the completion of a road realignment and paving project on the campus. The first crosswalk was unveiled at the Welland campus in June.

Niagara College committed to installing the crosswalks at both campuses, thanks to a student-led initiative championed by the Student Administrative Council after collaborating with many members of the school’s LGBTQ2+ community.

Vice-president of the club, Dalton Bird, said his organization will provide a new opportunity for the college to grow and to learn more about what they stand for.

“We want to create this bridge between the community and the students from Niagara College. We want to show them that Niagara College is a safe environment for everyone,” Bird said.

“The rainbow crosswalks signify the student council’s resolve support for not only the LGBTQ2+ community on campus, but all communities and students at Niagara College,” student council president Tom Price said in a media release.

“They also signify the respectful partnership and collaboration between the student council, Niagara College, and the student body to ensure Niagara College is a safe, diverse, and inclusive space for all,” Enzo DeDivitis, chair of Pride Niagara, said.

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Lake Report’s free local discount program is now open

Richard Harley
Editor

The Lake Report is proud to announce we’ve officially launched our brand new local discount “Press Pass Program.”

By signing up, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will receive a Lake Report card which will get them discounts at a list of participating businesses.

All businesses will be listed at www.lakereport.ca.

The main goal of the program is to offer a way for our community businesses to easily and affordably offer a local discount during the fall/winter season, to help increase local business.

With our streamlined approach, participating businesses can, without hassle, benefit from more local business in the slower season.

At the same time, locals benefit from knowing where to go for great discounts.

It’s a win-win.

How it Works for residents:
Simply stop by and sign up. It’s absolutely free.
Anyone participating in the program will receive a PRESS PASS card that verifies their membership in the program. Remember to bring photo ID so we know you’re local.

The card is valid for an entire household, for one year from the time of signing up (or the time you paid your subscription). Only one card will be provided.
Additional or replacement cards are $5.
Simply present your card at local participating businesses, and enjoy great deals at a long list of shops in town.

How it Works for businesses:
Simply call us at 905-359-2270 and register with the paper to be listed as a participating business.
Participating businesses can choose their own discount or promotion, which will be listed online at LakeReport.ca. A link to participating businesses will also be advertised in print twice per month. Businesses must agree to offer a local discount to Press Pass Program card holders, and place a “press pass program” sticker on their storefront.
Discounts can be changed during the season for a $10 fee, but we encourage retailers to maintain the discount all season.
The Lake Report will verify the addresses of participants before they receive a press pass card. The fee is just $50, and every dollar of that supports local journalism and community news.

Press Pass Program offers deals

The Lake Report encourages readers to support the businesses that advertise with us. These businesses allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent.

When you’re looking for a service or product, check The Lake Report and support someone who lives in your hometown. There are plenty of great businesses inside to choose from — don’t forget to mention you saw them in The Lake Report!
The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper. Your donations and contributions help support young, local journalists, as well as student interns, local charities, and so much more.

We encourage all residents to support The Lake Report through an annual “subscription” subscription. We suggest just $50 per year (less than $1 per issue) per household. That’s less than most people spend on coffee.

Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. Donations can be made online at www.lakereport.ca, or cheques can be mailed to the NOTL Post Office, L0S J0, PO Box 724.
Please make cheques to The Lake Report.

- Richard Harley

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The Lake Report’s printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.
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The ink is also vegetable-based.

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October 17, 2019

SPORTS

The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Clap (7)
5. Priest (6)
9. Benefit (9)
10. Unwarranted (5)
11. Floor coverings (4)
12. Rounded mass of steamed dough (8)
15. Seedless raisin (7)
16. East Mediterranean democracy (6)
17. Involuntary muscular contraction (3)
19. Duaky (6)
21. Least difficult (7)
24. Knockout punch (8)
25. Sicilian volcano (4)
28. Compel (5)
29. Dutch master (9)
30. Work over (4,2)
31. Soon (7)

Down
1. Scaremonger (8)
2. Crucial (7)
3. “Black Beauty” author --- Sewell (4)
4. Faculty head (4)
5. Biased (10)
6. Statue-maker (10)
7. Bygone (3-4)
8. Prevail (5)
13. Legislative assembly (10)
14. Rickety vehicle (10)
18. Furtive (8)
20. Edge of the road (7)
22. Permanently inactive (7)
23. Fly-by-night (5)
26. Yuletide (4)
27. Group of three (4)

Sudoku

1 2 3 7 5 6 2 8 4
2 3 1 5 7 6 4 4 8
3 5 1 4 8 2 8 2 7
4 2 3 6 5 1 5 7 9
5 7 2 4 6 3 8 4 1
6 4 5 3 2 9 9 1 8
7 9 6 8 7 4 1 5 3
8 5 7 1 3 2 6 9 4
9 8 4 2 1 5 3 6 7

Have some fun

The winners of the NOTL Golf Club nine hole women’s league season-ending scramble were Suzanne Rate, Sharron Marlow, Wilca Lay and Chris Walker. MAUREEN TAYLORSUBMITTED

The NOTL Golf Club’s 9 and 18 hole women’s leagues wrapped up their season with a great luncheon – and they handed out a ton of trophies to competitors.

Nine hole league:

18 hole league: Barbara Ahiuwalla Cup (low score over 10 games): Martha Cruikshank, runner-up Lisa Allen. Vera Derbyshire Award: Barbara Ahiuwalla, runner-up Sharron Marlow. The Vera Derbyshire award was established to commemorate Derbyshire’s 50th year as a member of the NOTL club and it recognizes participation, low scores, puts and other stats tracked throughout the season.

Other season highlights: Club champion Louise Rotaiblle had an eagle 3 on the long par 5 third hole, Cathy Murray broke 90, the club’s Solheim team won their division, the NOTL ladies won the Wood Trophy for the fifth straight year, Barbara Ahiuwalla won the Beat the Pro competition, and Marg Ketcheson won the award for the golfer with the most spirit.

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

NOTL Health & Wellness is pleased to announce the addition of Physiotherapy in conjunction with Chiropractic, Registered Massage Therapy and Naturopathy.

new service!

NOTL Health & Wellness is pleased to announce the addition of Physiotherapy

905-468-0614 NotlHealthAndWellness.com

443 Butler Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake (corner of Mary and Butler)
John Hinchley, 81, coach, teacher, raconteur

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Long lines for advanced polling

Lines were long at the NOTL Community Centre Friday morning when the advance voting polls opened, and though Margaret Walker waited more than half an hour to cast her vote, she said it was well worth the delay. “We have to wait, but we’re very privileged to get to vote,” she said while standing in line.

Early voting took place from Friday to Monday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., to give people ample opportunity to cast ballots in this year’s federal election.

Elections Canada media relations officer Nathalie de Montigny said this was the first year advance polls were open for 12 hours, four days in a row.

During the four days of advanced polls this year, she said more than 4.1 million Canadians voted across the country. Those preliminary numbers don’t include electors who voted in local offices, on campus, in additional service points, or by special ballot. “This increase shows that more and more Canadians are taking advantage of early voting opportunities to cast their ballots,” de Montigny said in an email.

In 2011, advanced polls saw about 2.1 million voters and in 2015 about 3.65 million, both for all four days. While there was only one vote booth at each of the three NOTL voting stations this year which caused long wait times, de Montigny said there were more voting stations overall. In the Niagara Falls riding the number of stations increased to 22 from 16 during the previous election.

She also said the advanced voting process was made easier. “We are seeing a trend that more and more Canadians are voting early,” she said.

Whereas in previous elections there was an added step of signing a document before voting during the advanced polling, this year the process was identical to a regular election day.

“For us it’s a good story, because people are going out to vote. At the same time, we cannot control when they go vote. Sometimes it does happen, unfortunately, that there could be more people showing up to the polls at the same time,” de Montigny said.

While Walker was content waiting to exercise her right to vote, some residents in line thought there should have been more voting stations set up to expedite the process. John Thornburg said that there should have been more, especially because this is a federal election. “It doesn’t make any sense there’s only one station,” he said.

He said he would continue to wait, though, because he said he would be out of town on Oct. 21 during the official vote.

And though many were unhappy but still decided to stay and wait, others decided to leave the line and try again another day.

Donna Ricardo was bringing her grandson to the library and decided to swing over to vote at the same time. But after discovering she would need to spend almost 45 minutes waiting in line, she said she would come back another time.

“I’m not waiting in line that long today, we’ll just come back,” she said.

Though lines were long for the first few hours on Friday morning, they did tend to ease up into the evening. On Sunday at 6 p.m., there were only two people waiting to vote and no one was in line within 10 minutes.
Writers’ Circle: Daredevil William ‘Red’ Hill Sr.

Bill Hamilton
NOTL Writers’ Circle

Back in 1948, the family business of the famed river man, Red Hill Sr., came under hard times and was subjected to seizure and sheriff’s sale. My grandmother, Rose Shields, purchased the estate and through passage in our family, it now belongs to me. As a young boy I always looked forward to trips with my dad to visit the display. I loved to read the stories about these bold and daring individuals. I was always mesmerized looking at these large barrels and what they represented.

The collection consists of the Hill’s “Red Barrel:”, “The Silver Streak” and the famous “Stathakis Death Barrel.” The Red Barrel, constructed of steel, weighing 620 pounds, saved father and son take it through the deadly Level 6 rapids of the Niagara River.

Imagine getting inside this steel drum, confined in darkness, cramped, with little room to move, the smell of steel and the thought this might be your last ride. Then in darkness, alone, anticipating a tumultuous ride through the most dangerous level of cascades, tossed, turned and expended time until you reach your destination. On May 30, 1930, William Red Hill Sr. rode the barrel successfully through these treacherous rapids and the vortex of the Niagara River’s whirlpool.

He challenged the rapids again on Memorial Day 1931, only this time he chose the large wooden barrel of Stathakis for his daring trip. He ran into difficulty, getting trapped in the whirlpool, but his son, Red Jr., swam out to free his dad from a potentially deadly situation.

Once again, on July 8, 1945, the Red Barrel rode through the narrow gorge, but this time the occupant was Red Hill Jr.

He rode the dangerous waves like his dad, tossin and turning for about four and a half hours. He successfully ended this journey at the docks in Queenston, exiting the barrel bruised and battered.

The steel Silver Streak barrel rode the perilous rapids on Sept. 6, 1948, with Red Jr. as its passenger. This barrel had a little different design, resembling a bullet and weighed 1,000 pounds. Once again he hung on for dear life on this familiar course, confined for hours, weighed down against the steel surrounding him. He eventually reached his destination at the Queenston docks. With this latest success, he felt it was now time for a bigger challenge.

Red Jr. would learn the power of Niagara in 1951. He followed through on a pledge to his family, to conquer the fury of Niagara Falls in a contraption of large inner tubes that he concocted.

He secured them by wrapping them in canvas and heavy netting. He called his creation “The Thing.” On Aug. 5, he launched his device into the swells of the upper rapids near Chippewa. Approaching the falls, the netting somehow started breaking apart. Hill was swept over the 165-foot cataracts, unprotected, to his death. His mother cried out from shore looking for a son whose body would not be recovered for another day.

Probably the most famous of the three vessels is the Stathakis Death Barrel. George Stathakis was a Greek chef of slight build and short stature. He felt by going over the falls, he could make enough money to translate a book he had written from Greek to English and have it published.

He had a large, 2,000-pound wooden barrel built by amateurs. On July 5, 1930, the barrel was outfitted with a three-hour supply of oxygen and he was accompanied with his pet turtle “Sonny Boy.”

The barrel was towed out and released close to Chippewa. Approaching the falls, the netting somehow started breaking apart. Hill’s journey is experienced by the大概约 165 英尺高的瀑布，没有防护，于 1930 年 7 月 5 日，他成功地让这个装置进入尼亚加拉大瀑布的汹涌水波中。他和他的创造物“The Thing”一起，慢慢地接近了瀑布。在接近瀑布时，他的装置的网开始破裂。希尔在经历了一段恐怖的旅程后，成功地在白水区安定了下来。他的母亲在岸边哭泣，寻找儿子的尸体，不知他何时能找到他的尸体。

Wine and Words

Niagara-on-the-Lake author Debi Goodwin speaks about her memoir, A Victory Garden for Trying Times, at the NOTL Library’s first Wine and Words presentation of the season at Southfork Organic Vineyards on Oct. 9. The next author in the series is Terry Fallis, on Nov. 13 at Palatine Hills Estate Winery, but his appearance is already sold out. Go to notlpubliclibrary.org for more information on the series.

It’s a Wine Thing

SYRAH / SHIRAZ

Each week, the staff of Ravine Winery share their expertise and offer a brief explanation about an aspect of wine. So, whether you’re an expert oenophile or a newbie just finding your way around wine country, we trust you’ll enjoy. Cheers!

The difference between Syrah and Shiraz illustrates how a grape’s environment and the way in which it is processed can influence the resulting wine. Genetically, there is no difference between Syrah and Shiraz.

The French refer to the grape and the varietal wine they make from it as Syrah. In other notable regions such as South America, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, the grape and the wine is usually referred to as Shiraz. But there is something more than just a difference in style and character as well. While both are very assertive red wines, a Syrah tends to be a little more elegant and complex. It usually has more of a smoky, earthy character with flavours of plum and spicy pepper. A Shiraz, on the other hand, is more crisp and fruity, less layered with slight, jammy flavours of berry.

While the grape remains the same, in each wine there is so much else that is different. The soil, the climate, the cultivation and the fermentation all play roles in determining whether a wine is a Syrah or a Shiraz. The French vineyards are heavy in limestone, which can hold moisture better and deeper than most soils. This forces the vines to get more of their nutrients from deeper soils. The result is a wine with more layered, complex flavours. The Syrah is also grown in France’s cooler climate. This lends to the plum-like, smoky character of this wine. Shiraz is grown in warmer climates, which makes the wine more jammy and berry-like. Even the rate of fermentation plays some role in the flavour development of the wine. A Syrah is fermented more slowly so as to increase the time the pulp can stay with the skins. A Shiraz is fermented faster, which helps to make the wine, in general, fruitier. While a wine’s character always begins with the grape, the terroir and fermentation process determine if the end product is a Syrah or a Shiraz.
The Regency
Brian Marshall
Featured

It’s 1810 and King George III’s escalating battles with mental and physical maladies have combined to force the creation of a regency with his eldest son serving as Prince Regent. The son was a very different man than his father. Where King George was known for his thrift and focus on mundane common matters rather than pomp and politics, the Prince Regent (future King George IV) lived life large in every way. A self-styled patron of the arts and architecture, his money and sponsorship within the context of the evolving Industrial Revolution would set the stage for the creative architectural kaleidoscope of the 19th century. One of the earliest architectural results of this socio-political shift has since been termed the Regency style. Unlike the slightly earlier and comparatively short-lived Neo-classical style, the Regency criteria allowed architects much more freedom to express their creativity. The result was a design style which spanned over 50 years and made an indelible mark here in Niagara. The basis of Regency design can be summed up by describing it as anchored in the landscape with clean, simple, elegant lines. This school of architects was aligned with the Romantic movement, which celebrated emotion and individualism over the Industrial Revolution’s stern dictates of logic and rationality. Romantics sought a connection to nature and pushed back against growing urbanization by seeking expressions of “simpler medieval times.” In our backyard, the earliest Regency houses borrowed from the Georgian its five-bay facade (a centred entry door with two windows set to either side), but the footprint was roughly square rather than rectangular. This was capped with a hip roof and tall, proportionally massive chimneys. To accentuate connection to the landscape, the home was set only one or two steps above grade while the horizontal lines were emphasized with strong drip moulds above each window and, occasionally, brickwork banding on the chimneys. The main entry was pronounced, often including a surround with sidelights and simplified classically inspired pilasters that rose to a tall, unadorned entablature. Early Regency in NOTL. BRIAN MARSHALL

Dr. Bruce Rigg’s collection of old Niagara paintings was handed down to his daughter Sarah, who very kindly allowed me to photograph the many pictures in the collection. In this 1940s painting, the Niagara marina can be seen as it was up to the late 1960s. In the foreground is Mr. Ansley feeding chickens in his backyard. In the background, the many boat houses that lined the slip, as it was called, can be seen. The lighthouse, which is still there today, is visible behind the boat houses. The little black building beside the lighthouse was the customs office where American boats had to report before coming to Canada.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

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The Niagara Marina

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The Niagara Marina

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SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH
Offering housing to international students at Vineridge Academy opens eyes to the world

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

When Georgina Keller started taking in international students from Vineridge Academy as part of the Homestay program, she had no idea some of them would become a part of her family.

In the four years the private school has been open on Niagara Stone Road, Keller has housed students for three. She says she took in six long-term kids during that period and a few of them built lasting relationships with the family.

Miranda Parrel from Mexico blended with the family seamlessly, she says, and continues to remain in close contact even after returning home. Vineridge opened in 2016, at the same time her daughter was entering her final year of high school.

Keller says her daughter asked to attend Vineridge so she could go to school closer to home.

“My youngest daughter Jessica was going into her last year of high school and she’s kind of like, ‘Hey, the new school is coming here. It would be nice to go to school in my own community’,” Keller says.

They were like sisters and they’ve travelled quite a bit together,” Keller says. “It was nice to have them around. They’re chatting and doing homework together. Just to be able to help them and show them Canada was nice.”

Vineridge offered tuition assistance to students of host families, which was one incentive for opening her home, though Keller says it certainly wasn’t the only reason she started.

“The way they originally put it in the newspaper was that your student can go for free because you’ll be getting paid to house students. The school pays us a Homestay fee – room and board basically, and I just used that to pay her tuition,” she says.

Keller works with international students as an ESL teacher at Brock University and she says the opportunity to take in students from Vineridge just made sense for the family.

Not only was she able to help the students learn English faster than they would have by living in residence, the family also guided them in becoming more connected to the community.

One student she took in, Omry Abed Alhay, she met through the youth group at her church. She says he wasn’t happy at his original Homestay so it was decided he would stay with her as well.

At that time, she had Parrel and Alhay also.

“Jessica and Miranda were upstairs and Omry had the room in the basement. They all spent a lot of time together,” she says.

And she has kept contact with both their parents as well, she says.

Above helping the students adapt to Canadian life, she says she has learned a lot from them.

She says the experience of housing kids from all over the world has really opened her eyes to other cultures in a way that visiting a resort or taking a tour through another country while on vacation never could.

“It’s an interesting way to meet people and learn about other cultures. It gives you a different perspective that there are other things happening outside of Canada,” she says.

“Miranda would tell us firsthand the things that were happening in Mexico, and the things that weren’t great. And then the things that were great, too.”

The experience made the world a little smaller, Keller says, and it inspired her daughter to explore the world.

“It has made her more interested in travelling. January to April she went to Australia, Thailand, South Korea and Japan. I think it put that interest in travel in her,” she says.

Those contacts she made at school opened doors for her travelling as well. “When she went to Thailand, she just messaged one of the boys from school that she knew, who invited her to stay with him and his family. So, she met with a friend and stayed with his family for a week.”

But more than increasing their interest in seeing the world, Keller said it was “really nice when they fit well with the family.”

“At Christmas if we were doing something big and my family was here, we would all be together. For the one year Miranda was here for Christmas, if I was going to my family’s house she would come with us,” she says.

She says she learned to be more patient.

Though she doesn’t have any students this year, she says she would definitely do it again.

“I’m not ready to be an empty nester yet,” she says. “If you want to be a part of a family then Homestay is perfect.”
Nyanyas’ African-inspired dinner returns

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

You can get a taste of Africa while raising money for a good cause at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 24.

The fundraiser starts at 6 p.m. and will feature a three-course meal with African-inspired dishes. A vegetarian option will also be available.

The chefs have researched African food and it’s always been delicious," said Terry Mactaggart, a member of the steering committee for the Nyanyas of Niagara, which is organizing the event. “It’s all African recipes.”

The Nyanyas of Niagara group is supporting the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, which was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation Sawyer Dundas.

Since 2007, the Nyanyas of Niagara has raised more than $33 million for the campaign. There are also groups in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Nyanyas of Niagara group holds a variety of fundraising events throughout the year in support of the program. It’s been six years since the African dinner was held, Mactaggart told The Lake Report, but it’s back due to popular demand.

“People kept on asking us, ‘When are you going to have the African dinner?’” Mactaggart said.

Since the last one, “so many new people have come into town and haven’t experienced that.”

There will also be door prizes and a silent auction with about 25 “incredible items” such as an overnight stay at Langdon Hall Country House Hotel and Spa in Cambridge, Ont., a gift certificate from Upper Canada Travel Service, an hour assessment from a personal trainer as well as art objects and jewelry, Mactaggart said.

Tickets cost $75 per person. To buy tickets, contact Mactaggart at 905-468-2438 or Linda Carleton at 905-327-1354.

The fundraiser at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Thursday, Oct. 24.

The Nyanyas of Niagara group is supporting the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, which was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation Sawyer Dundas. Since 2007, the Nyanyas of Niagara have sent more than $100,000 to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, Mactaggart said.

There are also more than 240 groups of grandmothers and “grandchildren” across Canada which have raised more than $35 million for the campaign. There are also groups in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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The campaign’s senior adviser, Ida Mukaka Namboya, will be a guest speaker at the dinner.

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NOTL residents catching election fever

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The 2019 federal election is less than a week away and Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are in the election spirit by showing partisan support with campaign signs on their front yards.

On a drive through neighbourhoods in town, one can see a variety of red, blue, orange, green and yellow campaign signs. A range of support is evident for each party.

And while some residents are broadcasting their political preference to let the community know who they think should win the election this year, like Conservative supporter Jordan Meyer, others are simply trying to get the message out there that it's important to vote no matter what.

Jeff Stewart proudly displayed a red sign for Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser and a yellow sign for independent Mike Strange, side-by-side on his front lawn. He would display all the candidates' signs if he was asked, he said.

“I would have all the parties out there if they asked. I just want people to go out and vote,” Stewart said.

He said there are four eligible voters in his house and each one will likely cast a different vote on Monday.

“It doesn’t matter who I support or who you support, just get out there and vote,” Stewart said.

Julia Buxton-Cox has a Green party sign out front of her house – she said she’s voted Green for years.

“We only have two more federal elections before we need to meet climate targets of 2030. My focus is on climate and we need to make a big change,” she said.

She said she can respect the Green party and what it stands for.

“I really like Elizabeth (May’s) platform. I like how bold she is. I like that she lives the lifestyle,” she added.

But Buxton-Cox’s main message was just to get out and vote, she said.

Many residents said they already made their way to the polls during advanced voting last weekend. Those who didn’t said they have made up their mind about who they are going to vote for and would be sure to get to the polls on Monday.